

From: Glen Stewart
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 7:18pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Dept. of Justice,

I feel that the suggested remedy to Microsoft's monopolistic behavior is counterproductive, and actually serves to further their stanglehold on the computer industry.

Microsoft has plenty of two things: money and software. Asking them to give up either will have no impact on their behavior.

Here is the solution I support - proposed by Red Hat, Inc:

Microsoft had proposed that, in settlement of class-action claims of price-gouging, the company donate computer hardware, software and support to 14,000 poor school districts throughout the United States. Under the proposed settlement, a substantial part of the value provided to schools would be in the form of Microsoft software.

The Red Hat's alternative proposal includes the following:

- * Microsoft redirects the value of their proposed software donation to the purchase of additional hardware for the school districts. This would increase the number of computers available under the original proposal from 200,000 to more than one million, and would increase the number of systems per school from approximately 14 to at least 70.
- * Red Hat, Inc. will provide free of charge the open-source Red Hat Linux operating system, office applications and associated capabilities to any school system in the United States.
- * Red Hat will provide online support for the software through the Red Hat Network.
- * Unlike the Microsoft proposal, which has a five-year time limit at which point schools would have to pay Microsoft to renew their licenses and upgrade the software, the Red Hat proposal has no time limit. Red Hat will provide software upgrades through the Red Hat Network online distribution channel.

A Win-Win Approach

The Red Hat proposal achieves two important goals: improving the quality and accessibility of computing education in the nation's less-privileged schools, and preventing the extension of Microsoft's monopoly to the most-vulnerable users.

Sincerely,

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